(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.

(iV) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

The criteria for setting up of Retail Outlet dealerships and SKO/ LDQ dealerships is given in the Annexure. *(See* Appendix 188, Annexure No. 65)

Locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the concerned Oil Company inviting applications from eligible candidates meeting criteria relating to age, nationality, educational qualification, income, residence, multiple dealership norms, etc. Selection is made on merit by the concerned Dealer Selection Board.

(c) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and April 1999 till date 23 LPG distributorships, 11 retail outlet dealerships and 2 SKO/LDO dealerships have been allotted in Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) In order to meet the increased demand, 115 LPG distributorships, 40 Retail Outlet dealerships and 14 SKO/LDO dealerships have been included in the current Marketing Plan for Rajasthan.

L.P.G. and Petrol Pump Agency in Madhya Pradesh

†2417. SHRI DILIP JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the number of advertisements given for LPG and petrol pumps agencies during the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what is the number of agencies actually opened, year-wise;

(c) the number of proposals under consideration; and

(d) what are the reasons for not opening up of any agency of L.P.G. in Jashpur District Headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Oil Companies have issued advertisement for 114 retail outlet dealerships and 383 LPG distributorships during the year 1997-98 to

†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.